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Integration of Science & Management

NLCS Summit, November 2010, Las Vegas, Nevada

Note: This PowerPoint summarizes the ideas of BLM and non-BLM stakeholders as discussed during the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System Summit, November 15-18, 2010. This PowerPoint represents neither the consensus opinions of the group attending the session nor the official positions of the BLM.

Introduction to Science & Integration Focus Group

 This group focused on ideas for the NLCS to more systematically support the delivery and integration of science into our basic work processes



Summary of Discussions

- Systematic integration of science into BLM management could be streamlined
- NLCS can play an important role in testing ways for improving sciencemanagement integration

Summary of Discussions

- The NLCS can serve as a model to better apply science in decision making
- The group focused on major topical areas
- Addressed specific comments from focus groups

Themes

- The BLM works better at the project scale than the landscape scale
- The BLM's National <u>Landscape</u> Conservation System can help in the transition to a landscape approach
- Lack of synthesis and dissemination of results and other science products resulting from research on the ground

Themes

- Poorly developed relationships with research institutions vs. other agencies
- Need to develop ways to incorporate ethnographic and traditional knowledge
- Need to better incorporate partners and ensure more collaborative participation

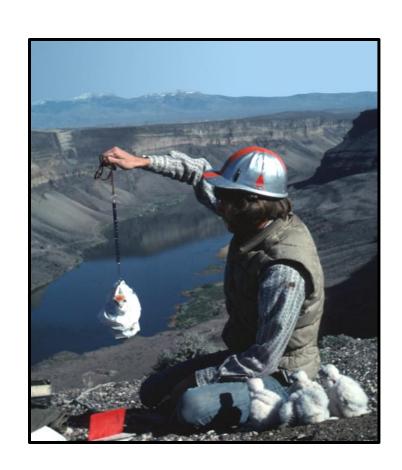
Priority Topics/Key Ideas

- Define the role of the NLCS in the landscape management context
- Develop a science strategy implementation plan for the NLCS as well as unit science strategies
- Develop process and policy
- Promote partnerships and citizen science
- Develop business practices



Defining the Role of the NLCS in Landscape Management

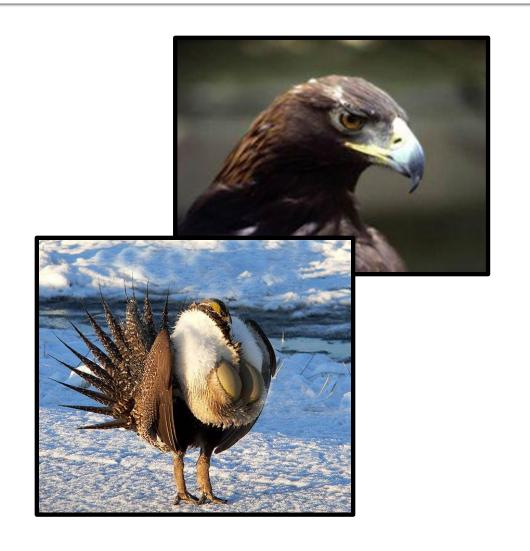
- Key Roles for the NLCS:
 - Core areas
 - Habitat connectivity
 - Control areas
 - Piloting management
 - Research for landscape change



Defining the Role of the NLCS in Landscape Management

Products:

- Concept paper
- Future guidance
- Vision document
- Audience
 - Executive Leadership Team
 - BLM Internal



Task I: Develop a White Paper Defining the Role of the NLCS in Landscape Management

Process:

- Core team from all levels of the BLM
- Core team will review products
- Establish SharePoint site
- List of all national initiatives (Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Rapid Ecoregional Assessments, etc.)
- Identify key external entities and define mechanism for their participation

Role of the NLCS in Landscape Management

- Sideboards:
 - Resource values
 - Link to NLCS science strategy
 - Connection to other BLM activities
 - Link to other conservation lands (e.g. Area of Critical Environmental Concern)

Task II: Develop a Science Strategy Implementation Plan for the NLCS and Unit Science Plans

Process:

- Review strategy overall action plans for NLCS
- Review science plan template
- Develop national priorities
- Develop national questions
- Step down



Develop a Science Strategy Implementation Plan for the NLCS and Unit Science Plans

Product:

- Science Plan Strategy Implementation
 - Examples of diversity of science
 - Case studies/applications
 - Science needs USGS typology
 - Tie back to decision making
 - Address monitoring
 - Articulate how NLCS units are unique
 - Develop NLCS priorities (e.g. monitoring, inventory)
 - Identify what transcends multiple units
 - Develop explicit strategy to incorporate adaptive management
 - Management as experimentation
 - Focus on which objects/values can be effectively monitored



Develop a Science Strategy Implementation Plan for the NLCS and Unit Science Plans

Parties:

- US Geological Survey
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Agricultural Research Service
- Management partners (National Park Service, Forest Service)
- Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units to work with stakeholders (conduct outreach)
- Timeframes:
 - 4 Months
 - Unit science plan template review
 - Use task #I above



Develop a Science Strategy Implementation Plan for the NLCS and Unit Science Plans

Sideboards:

- Tie into the BLM budget system (recognize disparate funding process)
- Find out what codes are actually funding science
- Develop program priorities for science
- Public land statistics (what do we want to report in regard to the NLCS?)
- Review of other relevant information
- See white paper: "Role of the NLCS in Landscape Management"

Task III: Partnerships and Citizen Science

- Develop guidance on citizen science
 - Examples and case studies
 - Incorporation of indigenous and traditional knowledge
 - Identify current and potential partners
 - Memorandum of understanding with USGS
 - Portal for science clearinghouse in NLCS
 - Science advisory boards (e.g. monument or NCA advisory council, resource advisory council, advisory body) to formally or informally incorporate external perspectives

Task IV: Identify BLM Business Practices for Landscape Level Projects

- Use the NLCS to pilot the development of projects that can incorporate science more systematically throughout the planning process and that are driven from a landscape perspective
 - How to develop a conceptual model
 - How to incorporate this model into planning/NEPA
 - Conceptual ideas included developing a NEPA document that addresses a landscape vs. a project specific orientation
 - Preplanning for NEPA projects that integrates science as the core driver







